

**VIRTUAL MEETING – June 4, 2020**  
**STATE & LOCAL ADVISORY TEAM (SLAT)**  
**CHILDREN’S SERVICES ACT**  
**1604 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 137**  
**Richmond, VA 23229**

**Members Present:** Shannon Updike, SLAT Vice-Chair, VCOPPA; Michael Triggs, VCOPPA; Lisa Madron, CPMT – CSB Representative; Rebecca Vinroot, CPMT – LDSS Representative; Em Parente, DSS; Laura Reed, DMAS; Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative; Martha Carroll, CPMT – CSU Representative; Mills Jones, CSA Coordinators Network; Lesley Abashian; CPMT - Local Government Representative; Sabrina Gross, DOE; Christina Owens, DOE; Beth Stinnett, DJJ

**Members Absent:** The Honorable Ashley Tunner, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Angela Neely, CPMT – School Representative; Jeannine Uzel, VDH; Nina Marino, DBHDS

**OCS Staff Members Present:** Scott Reiner, Zandra Relaford, Marsha Mucha

**Welcome/Opening**

Shannon Updike, SLAT Vice-Chair, welcomed everyone to the call at 9:35 a.m.

Mr. Reiner noted that the COVID-19 state of emergency precludes assembling the required number of individuals in a central location. He noted that the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requires public bodies holding electronic meetings to make available to the public a public comment form. He provided the link for the form in the chat section of the virtual meeting.

Attendance of SLAT members on the call was taken by roll call.

**Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the February 6, 2020 minutes were approved on a motion by Cristy Corbin, seconded by Lisa Madron and approved by roll call vote as follows: Rebecca Vinroot, Lisa Madron, Martha Carroll, Lesley Abashian, Mills Jones, Shannon Updike, Cristy Corbin, Em Parente, Sabrina Gross, Beth Stinnett and Laura Reed.

Mrs. Updike reported that members received notes from the April 2, 2020 virtual meeting for informational purposes as that meeting was not an official meeting and no business was conducted.

**SLAT Representatives for SEC Strategic Plan Workgroups**

Mrs. Updike reported that SLAT has been asked to serve on and/or guide the work of several workgroups toward implementing goals and strategies of the SEC’s Strategic Plan. She further reported that SLAT had solicited volunteers to serve on those workgroups.

The following people have volunteered to serve:

- Policy and Oversight Workgroup – From SLAT: Mills Jones, Lesley Abashian, Michael Triggs, Nina Marino and Em Parente.

- Leadership and Collective Action Workgroup (SLAT workgroup) – From SLAT: Shannon Updike, Angela Neely, Martha Carroll and Laura Reed. From local CSA: Kristi Schabo, Sharon Minter and DeDreama Harrod.
- Empowering Families and Communities Workgroup (SLAT workgroup) – From SLAT: Cristy Corbin, Pamela Fisher and Sabrina Gross. Private provider: Vassanthi Griffis and from local DSS: Lori Heflin and Robin Turner.

OCS will assist SLAT with leading and/or staffing the workgroups. It was also suggested that the workgroups develop standard work plans to guide their activities.

#### **Nominations for FY 2020-21 SLAT Officers**

Mrs. Updike thanked Cristy Corbin, Angela Neely and Laura Reed for serving as the SLAT’s Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee recommended Lesley Abashian to serve as SLAT Chair and Shannon Updike to serve as SLAT Vice-Chair for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.

Mrs. Updike called for any additional nominations. Hearing none, a motion was made by Martha Carroll, seconded by Mills Jones to elect Lesley Abashian and Shannon Updike as SLAT officers for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020. The motion was approved by roll call vote: Rebecca Vinroot, Lisa Madron, Martha Carroll, Lesley Abashian, Mills Jones, Shannon Updike, Cristy Corbin, Em Parente, Sabrina Gross, Beth Stinnett and Laura Reed.

SLAT members thanked Mrs. Updike for her leadership over the last several meetings.

#### **SLAT Meeting Schedule for FY 2020-21**

Zandra Relaford, OCS Assistant Director, reported on a proposal to move SLAT meetings to a quarterly schedule. This would bring SLAT’s meeting schedule into alignment with the SEC’s meeting schedule. Meetings could be held in the month preceding the SEC’s meeting or a week before the SEC meets.

After some discussion, the consensus was to move to quarterly meetings in the month preceding the SEC’s meeting. For FY 2020-21, SLAT would meet in August, November, February and May.

#### **OCS Report**

- CSA COVID-19 Survey Results

Mr. Reiner reported that during the last week in April and the first week in May, OCS conducted a survey of local CSA programs regarding operations during the pandemic. Of the 133 local programs, OCS received 111 responses to the survey.

Mr. Reiner reported that most programs have been handling the emergency well and have been able to continue the work of FAPT through tele-conference/or video conferencing. Family and youth involvement has remained about the same as in-person meetings. Some concerns were raised such as lack of adequate technology and quality of adaptive services. About 75% of localities have been able to find workable processes for CPMTs funding of private day educational services.

During discussion, members suggested an after action review including lessons learned and how to better prepare for future emergencies. Members were encouraged to send questions for further discussion at the August SLAT meeting to Mr. Reiner.

In closing Mr. Reiner noted the survey was a positive reflection of the resiliency and adaptability of the local CSA programs during this time of emergency.

- *FY2021 CSA Training Plan*

- *New CSA Coordinator Academy*

Mrs. Relaford reported that originally the New CSA Coordinator Academy was scheduled to be held in Richmond the end of March. Because of the pandemic, OCS has adapted and moved the majority of the New CSA Coordinator Academy to a virtual platform. The virtual training will begin June 5 and will continue on Fridays through the middle of July. If permissible, OCS will host an additional in-person training for new coordinators in the fall.

- *CSA Annual Conference*

Mrs. Relaford reported that the annual CSA Conference is currently scheduled to be held October 29 and 30 in Norfolk. OCS is considering and exploring other options for offering the Conference. Additional information should be available by the first of July.

### **Member Updates**

Members reported on activities and the statuses of ongoing projects, new programs and grant opportunities. Members continue to work within their agencies and advocate through their associations for improvements to services and service delivery for the children, youth and families of Virginia.

### **Adjournment**

The virtual meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2020.